

REMCOAI Board of Directors Meeting
In-Person meeting at 815 W.18th Street, Merced in MERCO Conference Room
Wednesday, April 17, 2024

President Lori Norman called meeting to order at 9:35 AM, noting that there was a quorum with President Norman, Directors Jim Pacheco and Gloria Keene, Past President Lola Barnett, Treasurer Richard St. Marie, and Secretary LaVon Justice. Absent: Director Bernedette Castaneda.

President Norman requested Secretary Justice to address report: Notes of the 1/17/24 meeting and notes of 10/18/23 were due to not having a quorum which led to the 11/29/23 Zoom meeting which was called to handle action items. Due to the illness of President Jackie Walther-Parnell, those action items were unable to be addressed. On February 26, 2024 documents were sent via email to all Directors and Officers, with the final response being that all action items were approved by March 2, 2024, so there is no action item for the Secretary's Report.

Director Gloria Keene remarked that the action items should be taken care of sooner. Director Keene suggested going dormant in the winter months if there isn't a quorum. She reported that she is aware of several organizations that have taken that path.

Treasurer St. Marie noted that he had just been handed the checkbook by prior Treasurer Lola Barnett, he didn't have any action items for the Treasurers Report. Treasurer St. Marie noted that he could report that he had received 8 applications for the REMCO 5 \$1000 Scholarships. Director Pacheco, Secretary Justice and REMCO member Vickie Murrietta had offered to be judges to review the 8 applications. Discussion was held that the deadline to return their results to Treasurer St. Marie by May 15, 2024; that there were two categories: High School Graduates and Continuing Education. Past President Barnett reported that as an example, two scholarships could be High School Graduates and two could be Continuing Educations with the fifth being flexible depending upon how many applications in each category, such as: 3 High School Graduates were excellent and only two Continuing Education applications were received which had high marks, the first three scholarships would go to High School Graduates, the two remaining Scholarships would go to the Continuing Education applicants. The applicant needs to return their Certificate completed by their school/University before they actually receive their \$1000.00 check. One time there were so many excellent applicants that an additional one-time \$1000 Scholarship was approved by the Board of Directors.

Treasurer St. Marie reported that he had scanned many of the documents and he would send the applications and the scoring sheet electronically or by mail if any Judge requested paper documents depending on the Judges' preference.

President Norman asked about sharing files such as Google docs? Treasurer St. Marie reported he would look into that.

President Norman reported there are many vacancies to be filled which have been posted in the Newsletter, Facebook and the website and announced to the members. Currently, the Vice President position is vacant and Director for Elections, Director for photographer/Facebook Live, and Director of Communication/Newsletter/Facebook are all vacant at this time. How do we interest someone to become a director?

Director Keene noted that the list of new retirees could be a start and they should receive a hand-written Welcome letter to interest them to come to the meetings and if someone expresses interest in becoming a Director, they should be invited to attend a Board of Directors meeting to see what happens at the meeting to familiarize themselves of what might be asked of them, depending upon the Director position that is vacant. Discussion held on opening the meeting for any REMCO member to come, recognizing that the Conference Room would not hold a large group, which might require a reservation or limited number at a time.

President Norman noted that the Spring CRCEA Conference will be a Zoom meeting on April 24th for the Business Meeting from 9:00 AM to Noon which includes the Legislative Update and the Ad Hoc Conference Committee. She noted if anyone wanted to listen on the 24th to let her know and she would send the link. Treasurer St. Marie reported that the Fall CRCEA Conference will be held in Contra Costa and he would be available if President Norman is unable to attend.

President Norman reported that Director Bernedette Castaneda was not present to discuss the By-Laws issues and what changes were needed and suggested the item be tabled at this time.

President Norman noted that we need a speaker for the June 11, 2024 General meeting. Discussion held on what time limit for the speakers, depending upon their topic, could be 10-15 minutes. The Speaker for September, Steve Pettee, usually takes about 45 minutes because he has multiple types of insurance that are available as additional benefits for the members. Director Keene would be providing the June speaker. Discussion on several options with the consensus that HICAP could have 15-20 minutes to speak and someone from the Merced Senior Community Center could have 20-25 minutes to speak, and to have them confirmed as speakers by May 15, 2024 to have this information in the Newsletter.

President Norman confirmed with Past President Barnett that all of the Elks Lodge connections/duties had been transitioned to others for reservation calls and registration check-ins. Past President Barnett stated she could take reservation calls and President Norman stated she could take calls, and to send her the list of reservations which she would provide to Paul, cook at Elks. President Norman asked for the name of the lady who had handled registration check-ins previously and was given the name of Karolyn Alvarez, who hadn't been at the General meetings for a while. Cindy Ramirez had handled the registration check-ins several times. President Norman would call Cindy to see if she is available in June. President Norman noted that in the absence of Director Pacheco, Cindy had handled the ticket sales for March and may do so for June. Director Keene offered to help Cindy with the ticket sales. Discussion was held on meals and options. President Norman suggested having meals planned for the full year to make it easier for the Elk's. Past President Barnett reported that she had provided the phone number for Paul, who would allow her to make changes up to the Monday before the meeting, and for Jesse the manager. Discussion on the March meal which was teriyaki Chicken, there should be a different meal such as Tri Tip for June, September Chicken Marsali and possibly Turkey or Ham for December.

President Norman reported that she had received more requests to join the REMCOAI Facebook page and that the website seems to be up-to-date, except old ads for Castle Museum. She had contacted someone at Castle who would check if they wished to update ads or to delete the ads.

President Norman had some thoughts on door prizes for the June meeting as Director Jim Pacheco had been successful in his District election and would be resigning by the end of the month and not available to help with door prizes. Director Pacheco noted he enjoys finding bargains, usually scouting 3 or 4 stores or sites, then circling back to the best price.

President Norman noted that each General Meeting would have guests from MercedCERA and the Human Resources Benefits Analysts as part of the business section of the General Meeting. In June parents of scholarship winners and the applicants would also be guests who would sit close to the front of the room for the applicants to come forward to say a few words.

President Norman reported that there was a question of procedure that was brought forward by prior Treasurer Lola Barnett if in the oft-chance circumstances occurred that REMCOAI/REMCO disbanded, what happens to remaining funds. Alice Contreras CPA reported that funds would be given to another 501(c)(7) Non-Profit Corporation per the Articles of Incorporation. Knowing that the account has grown through the years, especially the years under COVID-19 when in-person meetings were not held; larger door prizes, more prizes, or special events should be considered. Discussion was held regarding Amtrak trips; paying for charcutier trays for up to 16 people at a wine bar downtown: members would pay \$15 for sampling wine or buy their own wine from 5-6:30 PM; NK Designs offers different crafty items that can be created for the cost of the materials; several new restaurants by the El Capitan Hotel: settling on suggestion of purchasing gift card for Rain Bird as a door prize.

President Norman reported that a random draw using the Membership list to identify who will be the June winner of a \$50 gift card will be held; suggested picking a number between 1 and 1360 to discover what member matches that number. Treasurer St. Marie stated he has equipment and programs that he can calculate a true random draw before the June meeting and he will send the winning name in time to post in the Newsletter.

President Norman noted the Newsletter will be mailed between 2-3 weeks before the June 11, 2024 General Meeting. She hasn't heard from a volunteer offering to be the Newsletter editor. She said that The Addressers have been very easy to work with and she is more comfortable with the process after using it several times.

No other business, President Norman brought the meeting to a close at 11:10 AM.